

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated October 3, 2003, in which claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


To overcome the Examiner's rejection to claims 4-6, claims 4 and 6 have been amended to delete the phrase "such as a/the tread" without adding new matter and in full compliance with the statutory requirements. Claim 5, which depends on claim 4, is also believed to be allowable.

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that claims 1-7 be allowed in their present form.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims an/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case be passed to issue.

Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Eugene Lieberstein
Registration No. 24,645

January 5, 2004

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed: Mail Stop NON FEE AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 5, 2004.



Audrey de Souza